FEDERAL AGENCY NAME: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE: Water Security Initiative Contamination Warning System Demonstration Pilots

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Request for Applications

RFA NO: EPA-OW-OGWDW-07-01

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO: 66.478 – Water Security Training and Technical Assistance and Water Security Initiative Contamination Warning System Pilots

DATES: The closing date and time for electronic receipt of applications through Grants.gov is **11:59 PM EDT, September 10, 2007**. If you are unable to submit an application through Grants.gov and the Agency Contact has identified an alternate procedure for submission of your application, as described in Section IV.B, EPA must receive your application by this same deadline.

Questions must be submitted in writing via e-mail and must be received by the Agency Contact identified in Section VII before 5:00 PM EDT, August 10, 2007. Written responses will be posted on EPA's website at http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/initiative.cfm.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requesting applications for drinking water contamination warning system demonstration pilots as part of the Agency's Water Security (WS) initiative. Applications for contamination warning system pilot projects must address specified monitoring and surveillance components, a consequence management plan, and a review and evaluation plan, as described in Section I.B. EPA anticipates that approximately $38 million will be available under this announcement, depending on Agency funding levels and other applicable considerations. EPA anticipates awarding up to four cooperative agreements for these demonstration pilots. The federal portion for each cooperative agreement is anticipated to range between $3 million and $12 million. A minimum 20 percent cost-share/match of the total project cost is required for these demonstration pilots. EPA will fund a maximum of 80 percent of the total project cost. Applications will be accepted only from local governments or institutions (either public or private nonprofit organizations) that operate community water systems serving at least 750,000 people.

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Background

The Water Security (WS) initiative is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program that addresses the risk of intentional contamination of drinking water distribution systems. EPA established this initiative in response to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9, under which

the Agency must "*develop robust, comprehensive, and fully coordinated surveillance and monitoring systems, including international information, for…water quality that provides early detection and awareness of disease, pest, or poisonous agents*." Under Section 1434 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), 42 U.S.C. 300i-3, EPA has authority to enter into cooperative agreements to review "*current and future methods to prevent, detect and respond to the intentional introduction of chemical, biological or radiological contaminants into community water systems...*".

The WS initiative comprises work in three areas: (1) develop a conceptual design for a system that achieves timely detection and appropriate response to drinking water contamination incidents to mitigate public health and economic impacts; (2) support the review of the conceptual design through cooperative agreements to demonstrate, test, and evaluate the conceptual design in contamination warning systems pilots at drinking water utilities; and (3) issue practical guidance and conduct outreach to promote voluntary national adoption of effective and sustainable drinking water contamination warning systems.

Conceptual Design

EPA has completed a conceptual design of a contamination warning system. This design involves the deployment of multiple monitoring and surveillance components to achieve timely detection of possible contamination in drinking water distribution systems. The use of multiple components is expected to attain overall faster detection of a broader range of potential contaminants than reliance on a single technology. Further, the WS components were chosen to be sustainable for long-term operation and to provide "dual-use" benefits to drinking water utilities, such as improved water quality management.

The WS contamination warning system monitoring and surveillance components are as follows:

- Online water quality monitoring
- Sampling and analysis
- Enhanced security monitoring
- Consumer complaint surveillance
- Public health surveillance

Another critical part of the WS contamination warning system design is the consequence management plan. This plan is intended to guide the utility through the process of responding to a possible contamination event when indicated by one of the WS monitoring and surveillance components. Section I.B provides more information about these components and the consequence management plan.

Contamination Warning System Demonstration Pilots

EPA is currently reviewing the first WS contamination warning system pilot in partnership with the City of Cincinnati at the Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW). EPA now intends to take the next step in the review process and support four additional contamination warning

system pilots through cooperative agreements. The purpose of these pilots is to demonstrate, test, and evaluate the WS conceptual design. Consequently, successful applicants for these cooperative agreements will be required to demonstrate all five monitoring and surveillance components of the WS design and a consequence management plan. In addition, applicants must further the review process by developing and carrying out a plan for evaluating the contamination warning system and transferring the results to drinking water stakeholders.

Guidance and Outreach

Based on experiences gained through the GCWW pilot, EPA has developed the document *Water Security Initiative: Interim Guidance on Planning for Contamination Warning System Deployment* (available at http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/initiative.cfm). This document is generally intended to assist drinking water utilities with creating work plans for contamination warning systems that incorporate the WS conceptual design. Specifically, it may assist applicants with developing their Project Narratives and Budget Narratives, as described in Section IV of this announcement.

EPA plans to issue additional interim guidance on contamination warning system design, operation, and consequence management in late calendar year 2007 and early calendar year 2008. This guidance will then be revised as needed based on findings of the demonstration pilots prior to being issued in final form. With this guidance, the Agency intends to develop an outreach program to promote the adoption of effective and sustainable drinking water contamination warning systems.

B. Project Approach

EPA is soliciting applications for cooperative agreements for community water systems to participate in the next step of the review process by demonstrating drinking water contamination warning systems. To be considered for funding, applicants must propose an approach for demonstrating (i.e., designing, installing, and operating) all five monitoring and surveillance components of the WS design and a consequence management plan. Applicants must also develop and execute a plan for evaluating the contamination warning system and transferring the results to drinking water stakeholders.

As described in Section II, applicants may propose to establish contracts and subgrants or subawards with other institutions in their communities, such as public health agencies, for the purposes of demonstrating contamination warning system components. The duration for all cooperative agreements funded under this announcement will be three years, beginning with a negotiated start date that follows award acceptance by the successful applicant.

Contamination Warning System Monitoring and Surveillance Components

In their applications, applicants must propose to demonstrate all five monitoring and surveillance components listed below. Applications should include the general elements described below for each monitoring and surveillance component, or provide an alternative approach that will

achieve similar effectiveness for contamination detection. Further, for any of the five components listed below, applicants may propose to include additional elements that will enhance contamination detection effectiveness.

(1) *Online Water Quality Monitoring.* This component consists of multiple water quality monitoring stations installed at selected locations throughout the distribution system. The goal is to establish a base state for common water quality parameters and, using sophisticated event detection systems, to monitor for water quality anomalies that could be indicative of contamination. The Online Water Quality Monitoring component typically includes the following general elements:

- Monitoring Stations: The specific instruments, probes, or other equipment used to monitor a water quality parameter. One or more sensors are selected and typically fabricated into a monitoring station (e.g., a panel or rack) that contains all sensors, plumbing, electrical components, and distributed communications equipment.
- Monitoring Network: The spatial plan for deployment of water quality monitoring stations throughout a drinking water distribution system. The monitoring network design specifies the number and precise location of each monitoring station.
- Communication System: The equipment, software, firmware, and services required to transfer data from each monitoring station to a central location (typically a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) center).
- Data Management System: The hardware, software, and protocols necessary to manage and store water quality and related data required for event detection. The utility SCADA system will typically serve as the foundation of the data management system for the water quality monitoring network.
- Event Detection System: Software or algorithms designed to analyze real-time water quality data in order to detect anomalous conditions that might be indicative of contamination.

(2) *Sampling and Analysis*. This component consists of the collection of distribution system samples that are analyzed for classes of contaminants, as well as specific contaminants. Sampling is both routine, to establish a baseline and maintain proficiency, and triggered, to respond to an indication of possible contamination from another monitoring or surveillance component. Analyses are conducted for chemicals, radionuclides, pathogens, and toxins using a laboratory network. The Sampling and Analysis component typically includes the following general elements:

- Laboratory Capability and Capacity: Establishing and maintaining laboratory capability and capacity, typically through a network of laboratories, to perform both routine and triggered analyses for targeted contaminants.
- Sampling and Analysis Plan: Developing and demonstrating a sampling and analysis plan that identifies responsibilities for sampling and analysis, sampling locations, frequencies, procedures, and analytical methods.
- Field Screening and Site Characterization: Collecting information from a monitoring site to support the evaluation of a drinking water contamination threat, and performing tests to evaluate chemical, biological or radiochemical dangers present at the site.

- Data Management: The procedures for storing and reporting sampling and analysis results.
- Quality Assurance Plan: The quality control requirements that will be adhered to during sampling and analyses, such as initial and ongoing demonstration of capability requirements.

(3) *Enhanced Security Monitoring.* This component consists of physical security equipment, communication systems, and alarm response protocols. The goal of enhanced security monitoring is to detect an intrusion into a high risk facility in time to prevent a contamination act or initiate response actions to minimize the health consequences. The Enhanced Security Monitoring component typically includes the following general elements:
- Prioritizing Critical Facilities: A plan or procedure for ranking and selecting facilities to receive physical security enhancements. The plan generally targets high-risk facilities that provide direct access to finished water (e.g., pump stations, tanks, and reservoirs).
- Physical Security Equipment: Includes monitoring equipment, such as card access readers, video cameras, lighting, fence line monitoring, glass-break, door-contact and motion sensors. Equipment is selected and installed to provide advanced warning of an intrusion event.
- Communication and Data Management System: The equipment, software, firmware, and services required to transfer data securely from remote distribution system sites to a central utility monitoring location. Intrusion devices may use existing SCADA communication systems, while video transmission may require another medium, such as private radio, digital cellular, or fiber networks.

(4) *Consumer Complaint Surveillance*. This component consists of integrated data systems, processes, and procedures to compile, track, and analyze complaint information. The goal is to quickly identify water quality-related consumer complaints that could be indicative of contamination. The Consumer Complaint Surveillance component typically includes the following general elements:
- Comprehensive Complaint Collection: A mechanism to direct all water quality complaints into a central location. This could include a call center with a widely publicized telephone number, along with procedures to capture complaints that may be initially received by other agencies.
- Data Management Systems: The hardware, software, and protocols necessary to receive, categorize, track, and store consumer complaint data. Typically, these would include the utility's call management, asset management, and labor management systems.
- Event Detection System: Manual (procedures) and/or automated (event detection algorithms) system(s) designed to analyze real-time water quality complaint data from discrete consumer complaint data streams to detect anomalous conditions that might be indicative of contamination.
- Notification Procedures: The hardware, software, and protocols required to notify appropriate utility personnel when expected call volume is exceeded and a consumer complaint alarm is activated.

(5) *Public Health Surveillance*. This component consists of the analysis of health-related data to identify disease events that may stem from drinking water contamination. Public health data may include over-the-counter drug sales, hospital admission reports, infectious disease surveillance, Emergency Medical Service reports, 911 calls, and poison control center calls. The Public Health Surveillance component typically includes the following general elements:

- Public Health Data Collection and Analysis System(s): Includes establishing new and/or leveraging existing relationships with public health agencies, developing procedures and protocols to integrate contamination warning system objectives with existing public health activities, and procuring computer hardware or software and/or developing custom software for the purposes of data gathering, analysis, and display.
- Alert Levels: Determining and testing appropriate alert levels to maximize effective investigation while minimizing false positives.

Contamination Warning System Consequence Management Plan

In their applications, applicants must propose to demonstrate a consequence management plan for a contamination warning system. Applications should include the general elements for a consequence management plan, as described below, or provide an alternative approach that will achieve similar response effectiveness following detection of a possible contamination event. Applicants may also propose to include additional elements as part of their consequence management plan that will enhance contamination warning system effectiveness.

A consequence management plan consists of developing a document and taking associated steps to prepare for and respond to possible, credible, and confirmed contamination events. These actions are meant to minimize response and recovery times through a pre-planned, coordinated effort. The consequence management plan typically includes the following general elements:

- Consequence Management Plan Document: A utility-specific document that outlines investigative and response actions when a monitoring or surveillance component indicates a possible contamination event in the drinking water distribution system. The plan should also address remediation, recovery, and risk communication actions.
- Response Partner Network: The network consists of integrated local, regional, state, and federal partners to coordinate planning and preparedness actions. The network is focused on established, demonstrable working relationships with critical response partners.
- Incident Command System (ICS) Training and National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance: This element consists of the utility's efforts to demonstrate the ICS – a command and control structure designed to expand and contract to manage any magnitude of emergency. The ICS is a key component of NIMS, which in turn is a key component of the National Response Plan (NRP), which directs, among other things, how command over an incident is escalated from the local to state to federal level, and back down again. Consistent with the Department of Homeland Security NIMS initiative, recipients of federal funding for emergency response projects must adopt NIMS.
- Training and Exercises: Training should ensure that relevant personnel understand the operation of contamination warning system components and their role in the consequence management plan. Exercises should focus on testing and, as necessary, improving the

consequence management plan format and decision making procedures during a contamination scenario. Training includes a roll-out strategy for introducing partners to the operation of the contamination warning system and consequence management activities.

Review and Evaluation Plan

In their applications, applicants must propose to develop and execute a review and evaluation plan for the pilot contamination warning system. The plan should consider the following factors, plus any additional factors the applicant proposes to assess:

- Operation: Assess the functionality and usability of the chosen equipment. Consider the skill level and manpower required for operation and maintenance, as well as system robustness under deployed conditions.
- Performance: Assess how well the chosen tools, components, and plans meet system design objectives and goals. Consider the potential for contaminant detection, accuracy of the data produced, ability to discern data anomalies indicative of contamination, reliability to detect a contamination event, and timeliness of data collection, analysis, and event response.
- Sustainability: Assess the cost-effectiveness of monitoring and surveillance components both individually and as a system for long-term usage and widespread adoption by drinking water utilities. Consider life-cycle costs, including design, installation, operation, and maintenance, along with benefits, including dual-use benefits like improved water quality management.

The review and evaluation plan must also address how the findings (i.e., "lessons learned") from the demonstration pilot may be applicable to other drinking water utilities, as well as state and local agencies and other entities potentially involved with drinking water contamination warning systems. Further, the plan must describe how the results from the demonstration pilot will be transferred to drinking water stakeholders.

C. Statutory Authority

The statutory authority for this action is Section 1434 of the SDWA as amended by the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002. This Section, entitled Contaminant Prevention, Detection, and Response, authorizes EPA to award cooperative agreements to review "current and future methods to prevent, detect and respond to the intentional introduction of chemical, biological or radiological contaminants into community water systems...".

D. Linkage with EPA's Strategic Plan and Expected Outputs/Outcomes

Linkage to EPA's Strategic Plan

The drinking water contamination warning system demonstration pilots support EPA's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan (available at http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm). All cooperative agreements awarded under this announcement will support Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water, Objective 2.1: Protect Human Health, which states, "Protect human health by reducing exposure to contaminants in drinking water". Demonstration pilots funded through these cooperative agreements will improve the ability of community water systems to implement effective contamination warning systems. Such warning systems are expected to mitigate the public health effects associated with drinking water contamination events.

All proposed projects must address the Strategic Plan priorities and include specific statements describing the environmental results of the proposed project in terms of well-defined outputs, and, to the maximum extent practicable, well-defined outcomes.

Outputs

Environmental outputs (or deliverables) refer to an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal or objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period.

The outputs of primary significance from these demonstration pilots will be informational products reviewing and evaluating the operation, performance, and sustainability of the contamination warning systems. Examples of these informational products are the following:

- Alternative approaches for deploying contamination warning system components;
- Functionality, usability, accuracy, and reliability of contamination warning system component equipment and tools;
- Rates for identifying possible contamination events and false alarms;
- Response timelines following a contamination warning system component trigger;
- Mechanisms for component information integration and real-time analysis;
- Approaches for determining the credibility of possible contamination events; and
- Costs and benefits associated with a contamination warning system.

EPA expects the review and evaluation results of the demonstration pilots to be presented by award recipients in reports, technical publications, and presentations at professional conferences.

Additional outputs of these demonstration pilots will be operational contamination warning systems at up to four drinking water utilities. Examples of products that will be designed, installed, and operated as part of the contamination warning systems are the following:

- Distribution system water quality monitors;

- Physical security enhancements at critical facilities;
- Improvements to consumer complaint call management systems;
- Information linkages between utility and public health surveillance;
- Contaminant sampling and analysis plan;
- Consequence management plan;
- Event detection systems for analyzing water quality, consumer complaint, and public health data; and
- Information technology and communication infrastructure for transmitting and storing data and notifying utility personnel.

Outcomes

Environmental outcomes are the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective, and are used as a way to gauge a project's performance and take the form of output measures and outcome measures. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature. Outcomes must be quantitative and may not necessarily be achieved within an assistance agreement funding period. Outcomes may be short-term (changes in learning, knowledge, attitude, skills), intermediate (changes in behavior, practice, or decisions), or long-term (changes in condition of the natural resource).

EPA anticipates the following short-term and long-term outcomes from these projects:

Short-term outcomes. It is anticipated that the review and evaluation results generated by these demonstration pilots will aid community water systems nationally in making decisions on deploying effective and sustainable contamination warning systems. Examples include contamination warning system planning and design, techniques for reducing false alarm rates, improved response planning, methods for estimating capital and operational costs, and expectations for dual-use benefits like improved water quality management. In addition, it is anticipated that the community water systems that demonstrate contamination warning system pilots will improve their ability to detect and respond to possible contamination events.

Long-term outcomes. It is anticipated that community water systems nationally will implement effective techniques that enhance their ability to detect and respond to possible contamination events and manage water quality. As a result, drinking water consumers will experience a reduction in risk associated with drinking water contamination and improved water quality.

As part of the Project Narrative, an applicant should describe how the project will result in the protection of environmental resources and link the outcomes to the Agency's Strategic Plan. Additional information regarding EPA's discussion of environmental results in terms of "outputs" and "outcomes" can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Funding Type

The awards resulting from this announcement will be cooperative agreements, which allow for substantial involvement between the EPA and the selected applicants in the performance of the work supported. Although EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial Federal involvement for this project may include the following:

- Participation in a two day "kick-off" meeting to be held with EPA in Cincinnati, OH near the project start date;
- Close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results reported by the applicant;
- Collaboration during performance of the scope of work;
- In accordance with 40 CFR part 30 or 31, as applicable, review of proposed procurements and subawards including approval of the substantive terms of procurement contracts and subawards (EPA will not select contractors or subawardees);
- Review qualifications of key personnel (EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient); and
- Review and comment on reports and publications prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).

B. Amount of Funding Available

EPA anticipates that approximately $38 million will be available under this announcement, depending on Agency funding levels and other applicable considerations. With this funding, EPA intends to support up to four cooperative agreements for contamination warning system demonstration pilots. The federal portion for each cooperative agreement is anticipated to range between $3 million and $12 million. EPA will fund a maximum of 80 percent of the total project cost (see section III.D for information on the minimum non-federal 20 percent cost-share/match requirement). The number and amount of awards are subject to both funds availability and the quality of applications submitted.

C. Additional Information

EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no award as a result of this announcement or make fewer awards than anticipated. EPA also reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than six months after the original selection decisions.

In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects. If EPA decides to partially fund an application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the

application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and therefore maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process.

EPA reserves the right to incrementally fund awards made under this announcement. The Agency will negotiate an incremental funding schedule with the successful applicant that reflects the project and budget narratives (described in Sections IV.C and IV.D).

D. Project Duration

Proposed project periods must be for three years. EPA will negotiate a project start date that follows award acceptance by the successful applicant.

E. Contracts and Subawards

EPA awards funds to one eligible applicant as the "recipient" even if other eligible applicants are named as "partners" or "co-applicants" or members of a "coalition" or "consortium". The recipient is accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of funds.

Funding may be used to provide subgrants or subawards of financial assistance to fund partnerships provided the recipient complies with applicable requirements for subawards or subgrants including those contained in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. Successful applicants must compete contracts for services and products and conduct cost and price analyses to the extent required by the procurement provisions of these regulations. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify contractors or consultants in their applications. Moreover, the fact that a successful applicant has named a specific contractor or consultant in the application EPA approves does not relieve it of its obligations to comply with competitive procurement requirements. Please note that applicants may not award sole source contracts to consulting, engineering or other firms assisting applicants with the application solely based on the firm's role in preparing the application.

Successful applicants cannot use subgrants or subawards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments to acquire commercial services or products from for-profit organizations to carry out its assistance agreement. The nature of the transaction between the recipient and the subawardee or subgrantee must be consistent with the standards for distinguishing between vendor transactions and subrecipient assistance under Subpart B Section .210 of OMB Circular A-133, and the definitions of "subaward" at 40 CFR 30.2(ff) or "subgrant" at 40 CFR 31.3, as applicable. EPA will not be a party to these transactions.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

EPA is soliciting applications only from local governments or institutions (either public or private nonprofit organizations) that operate community water systems (as defined in 40 C.F.R.

§141.2) serving at least 750,000 people. For-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for cooperative agreements under this announcement. Nonprofit organizations that lobby and are exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code are not eligible to apply. EPA may request that applicants provide verification of their nonprofit status.

B. Cost-Sharing or Matching

All applicants must demonstrate in their application submission how they will contribute a minimum non-federal cost-share/match of 20 percent of the total project cost. This means that EPA will fund a maximum of 80 percent of the total project cost. For example, if the total project cost is $10 million, EPA may fund no more than $8 million of that cost, and the applicant cost-share/match must be at least $2 million.

Cost-shares/matches can be in the form of cash or can come from in-kind contributions, such as the use of volunteers and/or donated time, equipment, expertise, *etc*., subject to the regulations governing matching fund requirements at 40 CFR 31.24 or 40 CFR 30.23, as applicable. In-kind contributions often include salaries or other verifiable costs and this value must be carefully documented. In the case of salaries, applicants may use either minimum wage or fair market value. The cost-share/match must be for allowable project costs. Cost-share/matching funds are considered grant funds and are included in the total award amount and should be used for the reasonable and necessary expenses of carrying out the work plan. All grant funds are subject to federal audit. Any restrictions on the use of grant funds (examples of restrictions are outlined in Section IV.H of this announcement) also apply to the use of cost-share/matching funds. Other federal grants may not be used as cost-shares/matches without specific statutory authority. Applicants that do not demonstrate how they will meet the minimum cost-share/match requirement at the time of application submission will not be considered for funding.

C. Eligibility Screening Requirements: Threshold Criteria

These are requirements that, if not met by the time of application submission, will result in elimination of the application from consideration for funding. Only applications that meet all of these criteria will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V of this announcement. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

1. Application packages must substantially comply with the submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or else they will be rejected. Where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to the project narrative, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed. In addition, application packages must be received on or before the announcement closing time and date described in Section IV.F of this announcement. Application packages received after the published closing date and time will be returned to the sender without further consideration.

2. Applications must describe how the demonstration pilot will include all five monitoring and surveillance components of the WS design, a consequence management plan, and an evaluation

plan as described in Section I.B. **Applications that do not fully comply with this requirement will not be considered for funding.**

3. Applicants must be an eligible local government or institution described in Section III.A and must operate a community water system serving at least 750,000 people at the time of application submission.

4. Applications must demonstrate how they will provide a non-federal cost-share/match of at least 20 percent of the total project cost (as described in Section III.B) at the time of application submission.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Address to Request Application Packages

The complete grants application package can be downloaded from EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment website at http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/how_to_apply.htm and by mail upon request by calling the Grants Administration Division at (202) 564-5320.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

General Application Instructions

EPA strongly encourages the electronic submission of applications through the Grants.gov website as described in this section. If you are unable to submit an application through Grants.gov, notify the Agency Contact listed in Section VII to identify an alternate procedure for application submission.

Grants.gov allows an applicant to download an application package and complete the package offline based on agency instructions. After an applicant completes the required application package, it can submit the package electronically to Grants.gov, which transmits the package to the funding agency.

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for federal assistance. For more information, go to http://www.grants.gov and click on "Get Registered" on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to http://www.grants.gov and click on "Apply for Grants" on the left side of the page. Then click on "Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions" to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package for the announcement. To download the PureEdge viewer click

on the "PureEdge Viewer" link. Once you have downloaded the viewer, you may retrieve the application package by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, **EPA-OW-OGWDW-07-01**, or the appropriate CFDA number that applies to the announcement (CFDA 66.478), in the appropriate field. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the button "How To Apply" at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on http://www.grants.gov (to find the synopsis page, go to http://www.grants.gov and click on the "Find Grant Opportunities" button on the left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities and use the Browse by Agency feature to find EPA opportunities).

Application Submission Deadline: Your organization's AOR must submit your complete application package electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov) no later than **11:59 PM EDT, September 10, 2007**.

Please submit *all* of the application materials described below. To view the full funding announcement go to http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/initiative.cfm or go to http://www.grants.gov and click on "Find Grant Opportunities" on the left side of the page and then click on Search Opportunities/Browse by Agency and select Environmental Protection Agency. Application materials submitted through Grants.gov will be time/date stamped.

Application Materials

Applicants are required to submit the following documents to apply electronically through Grants.gov. If you are unable to submit an application through Grants.gov and the Agency Contact has identified an alternate procedure for submission of your application, you must still submit the following documents.

1. *Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance*
   Complete the form. There are no attachments. Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by visiting the web site at www.dnb.com.

2. *SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs*
   Complete the form. There are no attachments. The total amount of Federal funding requested for the three year project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A. If indirect costs are included, the amount of indirect costs should be entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22. If indirect costs are requested, a copy of the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement must be submitted as part of the application package. (See instructions for document 10 below.)

3. *SF-424B, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs*
   Complete the form. There are no attachments.

4. *Grants.gov Lobbying Form – Certification Regarding Lobbying*
   Complete the form. There are no attachments.

5. *EPA Form 5700-54, Key Contacts Form*
   Complete the form. There are no attachments.

6. *EPA Form 4700-4, Pre-Award Compliance Review Report*
   Complete the form. There are no attachments.

7. *Project Narrative – Prepare the detailed project narrative as described in Section IV.C*

8. *Budget Narrative – Prepare a detailed itemized budget as described in Section IV.D.*

9. *Other Attachments Form – SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities*
   Complete the form if your organization is involved in lobbying activities. Use the "Other Attachments Form" in the "Optional Documents" box to attach a copy of the form. (See Section IV.E, Application Submission Instructions, for more details.)

10. *Other Attachments Form – Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if indirect costs are included in the project budget)*
    Use the "Other Attachments Form" in the "Optional Documents" box to attach a copy of your organization's Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if applicable. (See Section IV.E, Application Submission Instructions, for more details.) You must submit a copy of your organization's Indirect Cost Rate Agreement as part of the application package if your proposed budget includes indirect costs.

C. Instructions for Preparation of the Project Narrative

The project narrative, listed as required document 7 in Section IV.B, must include the information listed below. If a particular item is not applicable, clearly state this in the application. **This project narrative must be limited to no more than 100 typewritten 8.5 x 11-inch pages (a page is one side of a piece of paper) including the cover page, supporting appendices, and resumes. Additional pages will not be considered**. Letters of support from potential partner entities and the budget narrative will not count against the page limit for the project narrative.

Pages should be numbered for ease of reading. It is recommended that applicants use a standard 12-point type font with 1-inch margins. While these guidelines establish the minimum type size requirements, applicants are advised that readability is of paramount importance and should take precedence in selection of an appropriate font for use in the application. The font size for tables, charts, graphs, and figures may be smaller than font size 12 but should be clearly visible. All project narratives must include the following documentation:

1. **Cover Page**: Include the following information:

a. Project Title

b. Community water system name: For the community water system where the contamination warning system pilot will be demonstrated, provide the name of the system, the PWSID number, and the number of people the system serves. If the contamination warning system will be demonstrated in multiple, consecutive, community water systems, provide the name of the largest. For purposes of this application, this system is the principal community water system and must serve at least 750,000 to be eligible.

c. Principal contact: Identify who will serve as the principal contact for accomplishing the activities outlined in the work plan, including name, address, phone number, and email address.

d. Funding requested: Specify the amount of funding requested from EPA and the required non-federal cost-share (in dollars) to be provided by the applicant. The applicant cost-share must be at least 20 percent of the total project cost.

2. **Community water system information:** Describe the principal community water system where the contamination warning system will be demonstrated. Include the following: PWSID number, the number of people the system serves, average daily flow, the geographic location of the system, source water(s), major treatment processes, primary and residual disinfection practices, and any consecutive system relationships (i.e., buying or selling of treated water).

3. **Technical approach to contamination warning system demonstration pilot**: Summarize the general approach to pre-design, design, installation, operation, maintenance, and refinement of the contamination warning system demonstration pilot. Describe design objectives and broad expectations for the functionality and performance that the completed contamination warning system will provide. The document *Water Security Initiative: Interim Guidance on Planning for Contamination Warning System Deployment*, available at http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/initiative.cfm, may assist applicants with developing their approach.

Monitoring and Surveillance Components

Describe the proposed approach to demonstrating the five contamination warning system monitoring and surveillance components listed in Section I.B. Include the information requested as applicable to the proposed approach, along with any additional information the applicant selects. For each monitoring and surveillance component, begin with a brief needs assessment (i.e., gap analysis) that supports the proposed enhancements to be made.

a. Online water quality monitoring: Describe the proposed approach for identifying the type of water quality monitoring stations to be used, determining the number and

location of those stations in the distribution system (including any distribution system model development or validation), establishing a communication and data management system for information transfer and storage, and choosing an event detection system for analyzing water quality data.

b. Sampling and analysis: Describe the proposed approach for establishing capability and capacity at one or more labs for sample analyses, developing and demonstrating a sampling and analysis plan, performing field screening and site characterization, establishing data management procedures, and developing a quality assurance plan.

c. Enhanced security monitoring: Describe the proposed approach for prioritizing critical facilities to receive security enhancements, identifying the physical security equipment to be installed at critical facilities, and developing a supporting communication and data management system.

d. Consumer complaint surveillance: Describe the proposed approach for developing a comprehensive complaint collection system, establishing a data management system to track and store complaint data, choosing an event detection system to analyze complaint data, and demonstrating notification procedures when an expected call volume is exceeded.

e. Public health surveillance: Describe the proposed approach for establishing new and/or leveraging existing relationships with public health agencies, integrating contamination warning system objectives with existing public health activities, acquiring computer hardware and software for the purposes of data gathering, analysis, and display, and determining alert levels.

Consequence Management Plan

Describe the proposed approach for drafting a consequence management plan document, establishing a response partner network, demonstrating the ICS and adopting NIMS, and performing training and exercises.

4. **Approach to review and evaluation plan**: Describe the proposed approach to reviewing and evaluating the contamination warning system, including assessment of the factors listed in Section I.B and other factors the applicant has identified for evaluation. Explain how the applicability of review and evaluation results to other drinking water stakeholders will be considered, and how results from the demonstration pilot will be transferred to those stakeholders.

5. **Timeline with milestones**: Provide a projected timeline for the three year project period (the start date will follow award acceptance by the successful applicant). The timeline should show timeframes and major milestones for the contamination warning system components and consequence management plan associated with the following: design, installation, baseline assessment, full operation, evaluation, refinement, and

communication of results. The timeline should ensure that the contamination warning system is fully operational in a timeframe that allows a thorough evaluation and communication of results within the project period.

6. **Programmatic capability:** Provide the following:

   a. Performance of prior assistance agreements: Submit a list of federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than five, and preferably EPA agreements), and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In evaluating applicants under this factor in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the application and you will receive a neutral score for these factors in Section V.

   b. Organizational experience: Describe your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project. Describe any other previous or ongoing projects your organization has carried out in the past three years that are relevant to contamination warning system demonstration.

   c. Project management and staff expertise/qualifications: Describe the proposed management structure for the project. List key staff; provide their resumes; and describe their expertise/qualifications, knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. List proposed partner entities, their roles, and whether they will participate as subgrantees **(letters of support from potential partner entities are encouraged and will not count against the page limit for the project narrative)**.

7. **Tracking Environmental Results:** Provide the following:

   Provide a clear description of the project's anticipated outputs, including deliverables, as well as likely short-term and long-term outcomes. Describe the planned strategy for measuring and tracking progress toward achieving the expected environmental outputs and outcomes identified in Section I.D. of this announcement. See Section I.D for the discussion of anticipated environmental results from this announcement.

8. **Past Reporting of Environmental Results:** Submit a list of federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than five, and preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the

expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for this factor under Section V.

9. **Supporting Appendices:** As appropriate, provide any supporting appendices.

Note: The applicant should also provide, to the extent not otherwise covered above, any other information necessary to address the evaluation factors in Section V.

D. Instructions for Preparation of the Budget Narrative

For the budget narrative listed as document 8 in Section IV.B, provide a detailed itemized budget. Justify the expenses for each of the cost categories identified below. For each cost category, indicate what portion of the cost will be paid by EPA and what portion of the cost will be covered by the minimum non-federal 20 percent cost-share/match as required in Section III.B.

For tips on preparing a budget and an example presentation format, see www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/tips.htm.

1. **Personnel**: List all staff positions by title. Give annual salary, percentage of time assigned to the project, and total cost for the budget period.

2. **Fringe Benefits:** Identify the percentage used, the basis for its computation, and the types of benefits included.

3. **Travel:** Indicate number of individuals traveling, destination, number of trips, and reason for travel.

4. **Equipment:** Identify each item to be purchased which has an estimated acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per unit and a useful life of more than one year (e.g., water quality monitors, physical security enhancements, information technology). Provide an estimated cost for each item. Items with a unit cost of less than $5,000 are deemed to be supplies, pursuant to 40 CFR 31.3 and 30.2.

5. **Supplies:** "Supplies" means all tangible property other than "equipment." The budget detail should identify categories of supplies to be procured (e.g., laboratory supplies or office supplies).

6. **Contractual:** Identify each proposed contract and specify its purpose and estimated cost.

7. **Other:** List additional expenses necessary to carry out the project, including subgrant or subaward costs. Describe each item in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of its costs.

8. **Total Direct Costs:** Summary of all direct costs associated with each object category.

9. **Indirect charges:** If indirect charges are budgeted, indicate the approved rate and base. Applicant should indicate if organization is in negotiations with appropriate federal agency to obtain a new rate.

10. **Total charges:** Indicate overall figure of all direct and indirect costs.

E. Grants.gov Application Submission Instructions

Documents 1 through 6 listed under Application Materials in Section IV.B should appear in the "Mandatory Documents" box on the Grants.gov Grant Application Package page.

For documents 1 through 6, click on the appropriate form and then click "Open Form" below the box. The fields that must be completed will be highlighted in yellow. Optional fields and completed fields will be displayed in white. If you enter an invalid response or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. When you have finished filling out each form, click "Save." When you return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the form you just completed, and then click on the box that says, "Move Form to Submission List." This action will move the document over to the box that says, "Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission."

For documents 7 and 8 (project narrative and budget narrative), you will need to attach electronic files. Prepare your project narrative as described above in Section IV.C (and budget narrative as described in Section IV.D) and save the document to your computer as an MS Word file or PDF file. When you are ready to attach your project narrative to the application package, click on "Project Narrative Attachment Form," and open the form. Click "Add Mandatory Project Narrative File," and then attach your project narrative (previously saved to your computer) using the browse window that appears. You may then click "View Mandatory Project Narrative File" to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of your project in the space beside "Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename;" the filename should be no more than 40 characters long. If there other attachments that you would like to submit to accompany your application (such as letters of support) you may click "Add Optional Project Narrative File" and proceed as before. When you have finished attaching the necessary documents, click "Close Form." When you return to the "Grant Application Package" page, select the "Project Narrative Attachment Form" and click "Move Form to Submission List." The form should now appear in the box that says, "Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission." Follow the same general procedures for attaching document 8 – the Budget Narrative, as described in Section IV.D– using the "Budget Narrative Attachment Form."

Documents 9 and 10 are listed in the "Optional Documents" box, but *please note that these so-called "optional" documents must also be submitted as part of the application package, if applicable to your organization.* You are only required to submit document 9 – SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities – if your organization is involved in lobbying activities. You are required to submit document 10 – Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement – if you have included any indirect costs in your proposed budget. To attach documents 9 and 10, use the "Other Attachments Form" in the "Optional Documents" box. After attaching the documents, please remember to highlight the "Other Attachments Form" and click "Move Form to Submission List" in order to move the documents to the box that says, "Optional Completed Documents for Submission."

Once you have finished filling out all of the forms/attachments and they appear in one of the "Completed Documents for Submission" boxes, click the "Save" button that appears at the top of the Web page. It is suggested that you save the document a second time, using a different name, since this will make it easier to submit an amended package later if necessary.

Please use the following format when saving your file: "Applicant Name – FY07 – WS Pilot – 1st Submission" or "Applicant Name – FY 07 WS Pilot – Back-up Submission." If it becomes necessary to submit an amended package at a later date, then the name of the 2nd submission should be changed to "Applicant Name – FY07 WS Pilot – 2nd Submission." Once your application package has been completed and saved, send it to your AOR for submission to U.S. EPA through Grants.gov. Please advise your AOR to close all other software programs before attempting to submit the application package through Grants.gov.

From the "Grant Application Package" page, your AOR may submit the application package by clicking the "Submit" button that appears at the top of the page. The AOR will then be asked to verify the agency and funding opportunity number for which the application package is being submitted. If problems are encountered during the submission process, the AOR should reboot his/her computer before trying to submit the application package again. [It may be necessary to turn off the computer (not just restart it) before attempting to submit the package again.] If the AOR continues to experience submission problems, he/she may contact Grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or at http://www.Grants.gov/help/help.jsp or contact Dan Schmelling at 202-564-5281 or Schmelling.dan@epa.gov. If you have any other technical difficulties while applying electronically, please refer to http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp.

If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (*not from Grants.gov*) within 30 days following the application deadline, please contact Dan Schmelling as indicated in the paragraph above. Failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.

F. Submission Dates and Times

Your organization's AOR must submit your complete application electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (http://www.Grants.gov) no later than **11:59 PM EDT, September 10, 2007**. If you are unable to submit an application through Grants.gov and the Agency Contact has identified an alternate procedure for submission of your application, as stated in Section IV.B, EPA must

receive your complete application by this same deadline.

G. Intergovernmental Review

The funds associated with this announcement require review under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, as codified in EPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 29. SDWA Section 1434 cooperative agreements are a new grant program that has not been included in the Agency's list of programs states may select for Intergovernmental review. E.O. 12372 structures the federal government's system of consultation with states and local governments on its decisions involving grants, other forms of financial assistance, and direct development. Under E.O. 12372, states, in consultation with their local governments, design their own review process and select the federal financial assistance and direct development activities they wish to review. If selected for funding, the recipient of the federal assistance agreement will be required to send a copy of their application to the appropriate State Clearinghouse Office for an intergovernmental review, if applicable. (See: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html)

H. Funding Restrictions

In accordance with EPA guidance and the OMB Circulars, as appropriate, the recipient must agree that it will not use assistance funds for lobbying, fund-raising or political activities (e.g., lobbying members of Congress, or lobbying for other Federal grants, cooperative agreements or contracts). Foreign travel is not permissible, and equipment purchases require prior written permission by the EPA project officer if they were not included in the approved application. The terms and conditions of the formal assistance agreement may put additional and specific limitations on the funding.

I. Other Submission Requirements

All applicants are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering (DUNS) number when applying for federal grants or cooperative agreements. Organizations can receive a DUNS number when applying for federal grants or cooperative agreements. Organizations can receive a DUNS number in one day, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by visiting the web site at www.dnb.com.

J. Confidential Business Information

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications or portions of applications they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Ranking Criteria

EPA will first review applications to determine if they satisfy the threshold criteria described in Section III of this announcement. Applications that meet all of the threshold eligibility factors will then be evaluated and ranked based on how well they address the criteria detailed below. (Maximum points for each criterion are indicated.)

EVALUATION CRITERIA	Weight (135 point scale)
CRITERION ONE: Technical Approach to Contamination Warning System Demonstration Pilot	**50 points**
Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they: • Describe a technically sound approach to demonstrating each of the five required contamination warning system monitoring and surveillance components described in Section I.B. Each of the five components will be assigned up to 8 points, for a total possible score of 40 points. **(40 points)** • Describe a technically sound approach to demonstrating the consequence management plan described in Section I.B. **(10 points)**	
CRITERION TWO: Approach to Review and Evaluation Plan	**20 points**
Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they: • Identify factors to be reviewed and evaluated and describe an approach for evaluating those factors. (**15 points)** • Describe an approach for considering the applicability of results to other stakeholders and transferring results to stakeholders. (**5 points)**	

CRITERION THREE: Timeline with Milestones	**10 points**
Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which: • The proposed timeline with milestones demonstrates sound planning to achieve a fully operational contamination warning system that will be evaluated within a three year project period. **(10 points)**	
CRITERION FOUR: Programmatic Capability	**15 points**
Applications will be scored based on an assessment of the applicant's ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project, taking into account the following factors: • Past performance in successfully completing federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last three years. (**3 points)*** • History of meeting reporting requirements under federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance performed within the last three years and submitting acceptable final technical reports under those agreements. (**2 points)*** • Organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project. (**5 points)** • Management structure and staff experience/ qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them to successfully achieve the goals of the project. (**5 points)** *Note: In evaluating applicants under the past performance and reporting history criteria, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant, and may also consider relevant information from other sources including Agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided the by applicant). Applicants with no relevant past performance or reporting history will receive a neutral score (1.5 points for past performance and 1 point for reporting history) for these factors.	

CRITERION FIVE: Tracking Environmental Results	**10 points**
Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they: • Identify anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes. (**5 points)** • Describe a plan for tracking and measuring their progress toward achieving the anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes identified in Section I.D. (**5 points)**	
CRITERION SIX: Past Reporting of Environmental Results	**10 points**
Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. **(10 points)** Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score (5 points) on this factor.	
CRITERION SEVEN: Budget	**20 points**
Applicants will be evaluated based on the adequacy of the information provided in the detailed budget and whether the proposed costs are reasonable. **(20 points)**	

B. Review and Selection Process

All applications received by the submission deadline will first be screened by EPA staff against the threshold criteria in Section III of this announcement. Applications that do not pass the threshold review will not be evaluated further or considered for funding. A panel of EPA staff will review eligible applications based on the evaluation criteria listed in Section V.A and will develop a ranking list of the most highly rated proposals based on the evaluation scores received. The list will be provided to the Selection Official who makes the final funding recommendations. In making the final funding recommendations, the Selection Official will consider the panel

rankings and scores may also take into consideration programmatic priorities which encompass threat profile and system diversity.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notices

All applicants, including those who are not selected for funding, will be notified once selection decisions have been made. EPA anticipates notification to successful applicant(s) will be made via e-mail or mail within 15 calendar days of the selection decision. This notification, which advises that the application has been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin performance. The award notice signed by the EPA Award Official is the authorizing document and will be provided through postal mail. EPA also anticipates notification to unsuccessful applicant(s) will be made via e-mail or mail within 15 calendar days of the selection decision. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the application.

EPA reserves the right to negotiate appropriate changes in work plans after the selection and before the final award consistent with EPA Order 5700.5A1, Section 11. In addition, successful applicants will be required to certify that they have not been Debarred, Suspended, or otherwise restricted from participation in federal assistance awards in accordance with 40 CFR Part 32.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The general award and administration process for assistance agreements are governed by regulations at 40 CFR Part 30 (Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations) and 40 CFR Part 31 (States, Tribes, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia and local governments). A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/applicable_epa_regulations_and_description.htm

C. Reporting

In general, recipients are responsible for managing the day-to-day operations and activities supported by the assistance funding, to assure compliance with applicable federal requirements, and for ensuring that established milestones and performance goals are being achieved. Performance reports and financial reports must be submitted quarterly and are due 30 days after the reporting period. The final report is due 90 days after the assistance agreement has expired. Recipients will be required to report direct and indirect environmental results from the work accomplished through the award. In negotiating this cooperative agreement, EPA will work closely with the recipient to incorporate appropriate performance measures and reporting requirements in the work plan consistent with 40 CFR 30.51, and 31.40.

D. Dispute Resolution Provision

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm. Copies of the dispute procedures may also be requested by contacting Dan Schmelling at (202) 564-5281 or schmelling.dan@epa.gov.

E. Administrative Capability Review

Nonprofit applicants that are recommended for funding will be subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with Sections 8.b, 8.c, and 9.d of EPA Order 5700.8 - Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards (http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf). In addition, nonprofit applicants that qualify for funding may, depending on the size of the award, be required to fill out and submit to the Grants Management Office the Administrative Capabilities Form with supporting documents contained in Appendix A of EPA Order 5700.8.

VII. AGENCY CONTACT

Note to Applicants: EPA will respond to questions from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the application, and requests for clarification about the announcement. Questions must be submitted in writing via e-mail and must be received by the Agency Contact identified below before **5:00 PM EDT, August 10, 2007**. Written responses will be posted on EPA's website at: http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/initiative.cfm. In accordance with EPA's Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants or discuss draft applications, provide informal comments on draft applications, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their applications.

Agency Contact:
Dan Schmelling
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
Phone Number: (202) 564-5281
E-mail: schmelling.dan@epa.gov

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Data Sharing

All recipients of assistance agreements under this announcement will be required to share with EPA any data generated through this funding agreement as a defined deliverable in the final

narrative statement. EPA will protect critical infrastructure information from public disclosure to the extent allowed by applicable statutes and regulations.

B. Copyrights

EPA reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, for Federal Government purposes in accordance with 40 CFR 31.34: (a) the copyright in any work developed under a grant, subgrant, or contract under a grant or subgrant; and (b) any rights of copyright to which a grantee, subgrantee or a contractor purchases ownership with grant support.

C. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC)

Quality Assurance/Quality Control requirements are applicable to these cooperative agreements (see 40 CFR 30.54 and 40 CFR 31.45). If selected for award, the applicant will be required to develop and demonstrate an EPA approved Quality System, consisting of systematic procedures and tests that allow the recipient the ability to ascertain the uncertainty of the data. QA/QC requirements apply to the collection of environmental data. Environmental data are any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, or conditions; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology. Environmental data include information collected directly from measurements, produced from models, and compiled from other sources such as databases or literature. Applicants should allow sufficient time and resources for this process. The components of a Quality System are a Quality Management Plan (QMP) and a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Guidance on Quality Systems is available at http://www.epa.gov/quality/qa_docs.html.

D. National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance

Consistent with the Department of Homeland Security NIMS initiative, recipients of federal funding for emergency response projects must adopt NIMS. Information on NIMS, including NIMS compliance and technical assistance, is available at this site: http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtm.